

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /070 W
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R 290745Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6472

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1962

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MILI, CH, UR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY PLA DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF WU HSIU-CHUAN

1. THE NEWLY ARRIVED WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR, ERWIN WICKERT, TOLD USLO ACTING CHIEF SEPTEMBER 28 THAT HE HAD RECENTLY CALLED ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PLA WU HSIU-CHUAN. HE DESCRIBED WU AS A STRAIGHTFORWARD, INTELLIGENT PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHLY COMPETENT MILITARY MAN, WHO HAD CONVERSED WITHOUT ANY IDEOLOGICAL OVERTONUN.

2. IN RESPONSE TO WICKERT'S QUESTION, WU SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CURRENT CHIEF OF STAFF IN THE PLA. TENG HSIAO-PING HAD BEEN RELIEVED OF ALL HIS POSTS AND IN TENG'S PLACE A COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WAS FUNCTIONING. (THIS WAS THE ONLY MENTION THAT WU MADE OF TENG.) WU WAS ASKED ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MILITARY COMMISSION AND WU REPLIED THAT WITH THE DEATH OF MAO THE MILITARY COMMISSION ALSO HAD A GROUP LEADERSHIP.

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3. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF PEOPLE'S WAR IN THE CON-
VERSATION AND ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO THE MILITIA.

4. WU DWELT ON THE FAMILIAR ANTI-SOVIET THEME AND
REFERRED TO THE ONE MILLION SOVIET TROOPS STATIONED
ALONG THE BORDER. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE SAID
THAT SINCE 1969 THERE HAD BEEN NO SERIOUS BORDER
INCIDENT LIKE THE ONES IN THAT YEAR. HE SAID THERE
HAD BEEN OCCASIONAL OVERFLIGHTS BY SOVIET AIRCRAFTS. WU,
CGIN FEELING WITH THE USUALL LINE, DID NOT IMPLY THAT HE
THOUGHT THERE WAS ANY IMMINENT THREAT OF A SOVIET ATTACK
ON CHINA.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-1339
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976097/aaaaafr.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS BY PLA DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF WU HSIU-CHUAN
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MILI, CH, UR, (WU SHIU CHUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006